

## Overview

VIP invited more than 400 people to attend listening sessions and about 50 participants gave feedback during four listening sessions from late September 2021 – early October 2021. Listed below are their responses:

### **Q. What are your goals in the areas of gun violence intervention, interruption and street outreach activities?**

- Outreach team provides services, shares peer-related story, builds trust and shares resources (2)
- More folks reaching out to community members
- Community informed information on needs within community
- Often people involved in gangs won't come to a meeting like this. As a result, what's needed are Outreach Teams gathering information on what they want/need
- Active gang members call a truce; come together; think about what we need to do then comes back around
- Group and gang intervention needs to be in the plan
- Community, community, community – if we're not talking about it, forget it
- Collaborative program approach – city, county, state
- Three prong targeted outreach approach: young people, families and communities
- Do prevention work sooner instead of later; use data
- How do we connect with the "soon to be shooters?"
- More community referrals
- Be proactive in finding who are the people committing the crimes
- See numbers and affect crimes going on
- Having law enforcement present is scary and problematic
- Sometimes the violence is perpetrated by law enforcement; this jeopardizes the credible messenger
- Look at requests for temporary restraining orders that have risen to level of violence or eminent harm
- Advertise programs to community
- Mothers Demand Action has been focused on policy; opportunity to get involved in direct action
- Is there an opportunity to do more education in schools about guns?
  - Curiosity factor is an issue
  - Only reactive measures are in place now, like active shooter training

### **What are your goals in forming a community-based service provider network for long-term services?**

- Connect network to itself - Survey who provides services to create an asset map (4)
- Provide services to those experiencing poverty
- Connect City and County resources
- Systems are so complicated to navigate. There are so many programs in ABQ that are similar. There is a need to connect people in a more direct way.
- Albuquerque Adult Learning Center Inc
- Education is critical to this work; additional resources need to be in place for participants to be successful
- Do we have capacity to provide these services? If not, look to telehealth for providers who look like us and are culturally competent
- How do we normalize seeking help?

- Shift language to mental health and wellness instead of mental illness
- Services in different languages needed for helping different populations
- Be more flexible with street outreach
- Some nonprofits are just 9am – 5pm; how do we offer services beyond that?
- There's a lot of root causes to gun violence; trauma is one of them
- What I find are moms, babies and young children under the age of 3; they don't know where to go or what's available to help them
- We do a poor job coordinating information and resources
- Enhance program through schools, offer wrap around services sine we have a lot to build on
- Many people who have been in the system don't know how to navigate healthcare systems and other systems of support
  - Need to bring services to the target community with real-time face-to-face connection and help connecting dots
  - Break down the wall of separation between their lived experience (trauma, trust issues etc.) and the systems
- Prison programs are another avenue to build peer networks.
- Community colleges are one path to support formerly incarcerated people to learn about peer networks and become peer mentors.
- Peer networks bring a sense of belonging and trust to formerly incarcerated individuals, former gang members and others with a strong sense of affiliation.
- There are various credentials available for peer educators (example: behavioral credential for peer recovery and engagement).
- Need to figure out how to financially support peer workers in the short term; long-term vision is to have community-based organizations employ peer educators.

***What are your goals among restorative, mediation and de-escalation practices?***

- Trainers train community members to intervene and use de-escalation practices (4)
- More of this because it works
- Peace making is an Indigenous term; Tribe wants to make peace
- Restorative justice circles
- Ceasefire program
- Programs for inmates coming out of the system
- Love to see this strategy integrated into each of the other strategies
- Community members need to know they have other alternatives to mediate disagreements

***What are your goals in formalizing a public health approach to gun violence reduction?***

- Trauma and recovery center for all around violence – physical, emotional and mental health and resources (2)
- Bring in Native practices, healing, spirituality, peacemaking
- It's important that POC professionals are involved
- Helpers have lived experiences
- Others involved must be culturally open at least and culturally competent at best
- Dreamt about – the way gun violence is talked about on the news. How can we train news anchors and journalists on language use in a public health way? What questions would we ask viewers to think about? Maybe they would be open to different way of reporting
- Change common language
- All about prevention – teach young people about gun safety

- Public health education for everyone
- Follow CDC gun violence research
- Look at root causes
- Talk with people about their behavior and teach coping skills
- End school to prison pipeline
- Remove police officers from schools
- Less crime-fighting attitude
- Funding communities that are historically underfunded
- Educate young people about harmful behaviors and mortality
- Funding from Bernalillo County behavioral health initiative could be used to support the trauma recovery center concept
  - Psychiatric departments at hospitals are trying to build in follow-up for patients once released; could be a model to think about
- Fentanyl abuse has become a major issue exacerbating the gun violence problem

**What did we miss?**

- Accessibility of guns
- Poverty
- Use social media to connect with young people
- NM Stronger Together Coalition is a FB group I administer that has over 2,000 members and represents 34 activists groups in NM

**What else do you want to say?**

- All important and all interlinking. Poverty must be addressed. A community gets the program it insists on.
- Everytown For Gun Safety is a huge clearinghouse for data on gun violence in the US. [Everytown.org](http://Everytown.org)
- Would also love to see implementation of Hospital Based Violence Interruption Programs locally
- We need concrete strategies to put things in place

**What vision do you have for VIP beyond what we've shared?**

- A model outside of the government that is funded.

**Demographics (n=16; 12 in person + 5 electronic survey)**

*How do you racially/ethnically identify?*

- 3 - Black or African American
- 6 - Hispanic or Latino/a/x
- 1 - Native American
- 6 - White or Caucasian

*What is your age?*

- 2 - 18 to 26
- 3 - 27 to 36
- 6 - 37 to 46
- 5 - 57 to 66
- 1 - 67+

*What is your self-identified gender?*

10 - Female

7 - Male

*In what area of the city do you live?*

1 - Foothills

5 - Northeast

1 - Northwest

7 - Southeast

*Name your cross streets*

- Trumbull and California
- Zuni and Louisiana
- Girard and Central
- San Mateo and McLeod
- International District
- Valencia and Southern
- KAFB
- South Valley